

REMARKS

Claims 3-6, 8, 10-14, 16 and 18-22 have been cancelled, and claims 1, 7, 9, 15 and 17 have been amended. Claims 23 and 24 have been added. Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 15, 17 and 23-24 remain for further consideration. No new matter has been added.

The objections and rejections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.

2-3. Claims 1-13 and 15-21 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by the subject matter recited in U.S. Patent 4,833,715 to Sakai (hereinafter "Sakai").

Claim 1 has been amended to include features similar to those recited in claims 14 and 22, which have been indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 7 and 15 have been amended to include the features set forth in claims 14 and 22, respectively. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 7 and 15 are now in condition for allowance.

4. The indication that claims 14 and 22 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if amended to no longer depend from a rejected claim is noted and appreciated.

Claims 7 and 15 have been amended to include the features set forth in claims 14 and 22, respectively.

5. Substitute drawings are enclosed herewith with more legible text. Formal drawing will be provided upon allowance.

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 15, 17 and 23-24 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick O'Shea". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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